

BOOK REVIEW

ZEYNEL A. KARCIOGLU AND AYTEN SOMEREN, EDITORS: *Practical Surgical Pathology*. Lexington, MA, Collamore Press, 1985. 1312 pages

KARCIOGLU and Someren's 26 chapter textbook *Practical Surgical Pathology* is not as comprehensive as less recent additions to the surgical pathology literature, but in style and format offers an alternative for teaching purposes. The editors have organized a large group of contributors and managed to maintain an even quality throughout.

The opening section is rather simple and superficial. Immunohistochemistry gets more weight than routine special stains in contrast to the editors' intention of concentrating on practical points. Electron microscopy, morphometric techniques and needle biopsies are quickly covered, suggesting an attempt that they be mentioned rather than discussed. In this sense the opening section does disservice to many of the fine chapters which follow.

The bulk of the textbook consists of well laid-out pages with ample photography and spacious margins, the latter a benefit to those who like a "workable" text, i.e., to write in, make notes, add references etc. The juxtaposition of gross photographs and both low and high power photomicrographs is one of the great attractions of this work amply illustrated in many chapters, specifically in the chapter on parathyroid glands. Line drawings such as that of the normal pancreas juxtaposed with the photomicrograph are helpful to the newcomer and might have been used more liberally to enhance the text. The excellence and didactic benefit of the lower-power photomicrographs cannot be underestimated as they are a great asset to this book. In particular, the prostatectomy photo (Figure 12-12, p. 437) and that of adrenal hyperplasia (Figure 16-31, p. 687) are worthwhile. In addition, photos such as Karcioğlu's globe (Figure 25-2, p. 1048) with its insets of histology sections is of immense teaching value. In general, it is clear that the publishing staff and editors expended great effort in placing photos on the same page as they are discussed and, for this effort, they are to be commended.

Several chapters deserve particular attention. Considering the generally difficult task of presenting lymph node diseases, Hertzler and Woodruff provide a clear and comprehensible chapter with excellent photomicrographs,

well laid-out for useful reference. Carney's section on the normal adrenal is also attractive and informative, as is Weathers' chapter on the oral cavity and jaws, a balanced didactic blend of photomicrographs, line drawings and artwork. "Cytology" by Erozan and Gupta is well done. Particularly useful are such sections as "Common Questions" by Parmley, and "Post-Operative Correlation" by Carney. Here the authors have remained steadfast to their editors' aims. Tables, such as 12-2, p. 453, outlining the clinical-pathological features of the major testicular tumors, are quite helpful.

The textbook is not without deficiencies. Some photomicrographs are of limited value and several gross photographs are out of focus (Figure 8-16, p. 275) or too light (Figure 9-3, p. 295). The former is regrettable since diverticulosis is a not uncommon condition. Although briefly discussed on p. 441, the Gleason classification of prostate carcinoma is not indexed, raising doubts as to the comprehensiveness of the index. This could lead to significant frustration when looking for something. Angiodysplasia of the gastrointestinal tract, to mention just one "practical" entity meriting discussion, is excluded altogether. Subjects such as glomerulonephritis and metabolic bone disease are presumably excluded because of the editors' intent to concentrate on "surgical" rather than "medical" diseases. Although the idea to supplement some photos with a scale has merit, the one in Figure 17-4 (p. 699) is obviously incorrect.

The experienced surgical pathologist will not find this text of great assistance. However, the editors' intent of addressing this burgeoning subject with particular regard to practical points is successfully met. *Practical Surgical Pathology* will be of particular use for teaching purposes and as a first-hand reference for the resident pathologist and nonpathologist interested in surgical pathology. The cost of the text, not inconsiderable, may limit its appeal.

VINCENT J. VIGORITA, M.D.